" COMPARITIVE STUDY OF CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ'S NAVY AND INDIA'S CURRENT NAVAL SECURITY "

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Introduction:

History is a continuous dialogue between past and the present. This continuous dialogue should be compared and analyzed for the better future. Comparison has always not been done for the purpose of finding pros and cons but rather it will be helpful to connect some dots from your present to your past. Any military force includes Army, Air Force and Navy. Though Navy and Air Force are currently acting as different wings of the Indian Army but they still have their own significant presence. In the medieval times of Indian history, we faced invasions from the North Western frontier province but the most important invasion on India in terms of trade and ultimately ended up exploiting the country, was through the water bodies in the form of the European traders.

Being a king is not that difficult, but it is very difficult to be remembered after 400 years. In the medieval time India and entire world have seen thousands of kings and their kingdoms. But a small kingdom in southern part of India of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is being remembered by everyone still after four centuries. One must understand that the kingdom of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was not only a kingdom of a king but also it was a rare example of People's rule, called as "Swaraj".

Swaraj was not the only thing to be remembered but also it was a "Surajya", means sustained rule. For this purpose, he has not only attacked his opponents but simultaneously the focus was on building a perfect example of Kingdom. Maratha Empire was one of the important empires in the mediaeval India. As the founder of the Empire Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj laid down the foundation of every aspects and naval security was one of such aspect. India had seen so many naval kingdoms in the ancient time but they all were prominently merchant Navy empires. For the first time in the India's naval history, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj identified the importance of securing the coast lines.

India has 7516 km of mainland coastline. In today's Global geopolitics India is one of the important player. If we observe the physical features of India, then it is very clear that the northern side is being guarded by huge Himalayan Mountain ranges and on the three sides we have different water bodies such as Arabian Sea in the west, Bay of Bengal in east and Indian Ocean in the Deep South. While playing a significant role in the global

geopolitics it is very important to secure all boundaries, whether they are land boundaries or coastlines.

For that purpose, the one who recognized the importance of having a Navy from foreign invasions, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and his Navy can be compared to the India's current naval security. Indian Navy is worlds one of the best and well-equipped Navy with most updated technologies. Comparison between these two navies will be helpful to understand the past and the present scenario.

Significance of the Study:

India has seen and experienced one of the deadliest events on 26th of November 2008 that is the attack on Mumbai by Pakistani terrorists. Near about 200 people were killed and more than thousand were injured. We have lost bravest of the brave officers of Indian soil such as Shahid Hemant Karkare, Shahid Vijay Salaskar, Shahid Ashok Kamte and many more. This was one of the first major attacks on the financial capital of India via sea. The first one who identified the significance of securing this coastline was none other than Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

This study signifies the importance of securing our navel borders while comparing the India's first recognized Navy built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on the west coast line of India in the Konkan region. Indian Kings and kingdoms had merchant navies but they lack behind in terms of Naval Warships. This was one of the important reason behind securing all the important coastal cities of India by European traders such as Surat, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta by Britishers, Goa, Daman and Diu by Portuguese, Mahe , Pondicherry ,Calicut by the French men's etc.

This study will signify the comparison between the India's first Navy and India's current naval security. As the vision is very important while building and securing your own territory, we have seen that vision in Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. If we observe contemporary global geopolitics as well as India's physical features, we can understand the importance of current naval security.

Objectives of the Study:

The objectives of this study are: -

1. To present structure of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Navy

2. To present structure of India's current Navy.

3. To compare positive and negative aspects of both the navies.

4. To highlight importance of Naval security.

5. To State The continuous dialogue between past and present.

6. To present Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's vision about securing territory.

7. To highlight the importance of sea forts and surveillance.

Hypothesis:

1. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was the founder of Indian Navy.

2. Coastlines are the most porous boundaries of India.

3. India's current Navy lagging on world parameters in terms of technological advancements, war ships building mechanism, etc.

4. Mismanagement regarding protection of India's mainland as well as islands coastlines.

5. Maratha Armar was the first navy on western coast of India.

6. Marathas did not had any expertise in building war ships.

Research Methodology:

Present study is descriptive research based on secondary data for accomplishing the objectives and Hypothesis of the study. It constitutes the main source of information, suitable for the purpose of present research work. The work of academicians on the subject has also been consulted for the purpose analysis.

Limitation of the Study:

The limitation of this work is as follows: -

1. The study is limited only to role of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in laying foundation of Maratha Armar.

2. The study is limited to Naval conflicts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's era.

3. The study is limited to 1947–2020 period of Indian Navy.

4. The study is limited to certain warships of Maratha Armar.

Chapter Scheme:

The research study is divided into the six chapters. They are as follows:

1. **Chapter One: introduction**

   This chapter will introduce importance of research study, objectives, hypothesis, limitations and research methodology. Also, it deals with earlier studies done on this topic.

2. **Chapter Two: Introduction to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Navy and its structure**

   This chapter will introduce the foundation of the Maratha navy and it also deals with the different warships created in that Era. It will also give information about structures and naval tactics.

3. **Chapter Three: Introduction to Indian Navy and the structure**

   This chapter will introduce the Indian Navy and its current structure. It will also deal with different warships, different commands, hierarchy and significance of its presence in all the water bodies

4. **Chapter Four: Comparison of Global Geo- Ocean Politics between 17th and 21st century**

   This chapter will put highlight on Global Geo- Ocean politics, in terms of aquatic resources and its acquisition. It will also compare different battles, different ocean policies between 17th and 21st century

5. **Chapter five: conclusion and findings**

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